**FAQ**

What class should I register for?
Ensemble classes can be taken multiple times for credit. Each year we do different music and the curriculum is catered to the group of students we have. You can keep taking ensembles and still get better each year. Working your way up to more difficult parts, mentoring underclassman or auditioning into Jazz Band/Symphony Orchestra. If you are unsure what to take, re enroll in your current ensemble and we will get everyone officially sorted after auditions.

When are auditions for Jazz Band and Symphony?
Auditions will be about the first week of May. I will get information out when we are closer. For now, I encourage students to get enrolled in a class for next year, stay engaged in this year, think about doubling, and practice and keep working fundamentals. Private lessons can really help students achieve more, but they are not required.

I don't play a standard Jazz Instrument? Can I still do Jazz Band?
Yes. Though we do keep a standard big band instrumentation (as per USHAA guidelines), many students choose to double. Playing their main instrument in Symphonic Band, and then learning a new instrument for Jazz Band. When you have a good foundation on one instrument, many of those skills are transferable. If you are interested, you should sign up for Jazz and then see me. I can get you on a path to being ready.

Can I only take Jazz Band?
No, you must enroll in Symphonic Band. Jazz is an extra experience that partners with the regular band class. That is why this class is 0 hour and meets part time before school.

What about Pit Orchestra?
This is also an extra/honors experience for students enrolled in another ensemble. The players needed for Pit orchestra varies from show to show. I will recruit based on need at the end of the school year.

Can I take I be in multiple ensemble Classes?
Yes. Some students want to play multiple instruments. If you are multi-talented you are welcome to enroll in multiple. For instance I have had string players who also wanted to learn drumline. I have also had students sing in choir and play in orchestra. Highland has many wonderful programs and we want to help students have a great experience!

Is there Beginning Band/Orchestra at Highland?
No, we only offer intermediate and advanced ensembles. However I have had students successfully start an instrument in High School if they are willing to practice and take private lessons to catch up. Also, many music skills are transferable under the right circumstances. So if you have background on piano or another instrument it is possible to join percussion ensemble and be successful.

What about IB? Can IB students stay in music?
YES! We do our best to line IB students with their music class. Some years it lines up well, some years we have to make accommodations, but I am happy to work with students to keep them playing. Everyone at Highland want's the students to have a well-rounded experience!

Is there a tour next year?
I cannot promise, but I have applied and I am planning on it. Every other year we take an out of state music tour. In the past we have gone to shows, played festivals, toured colleges, had great clinicians, done partner concerts, and so much more.  Any student enrolled in an ensemble based music class can participate.

If you have any other questions, please let me know!

Go Rams!